

C. # 1952

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES

BOARD OF INQUIRY

BEFORE HIS HONOR MR. JUSTICE PHILL

W. 925 A.B. [JOHN WILLIAM VINEX, R.A.N.V.R.] Sworn and
Examined.

I reside 7 Rennie Street, NORTH
WILLIAMSTOWN. I was a gunner on the S.S.
Nanking and was captured in the Indian
Ocean by the German raider "Thor". I was
transferred from that ship to the German
supply ship "Ragnsburg" and taken to
Yokohama in July 1942.

On August 25th 1942, I was sent to
the prison camp at Kawasaki. The Camp
Commander Lieut. Takahashi under Major
Yamada. The medical Sergeant was
Sergeant Osawa.

In the middle of 1943 Lieut. Takahashi
was succeeded by Lieut. Ameri, a Japanese
who had been a wool buyer in Australia.
The camp was situated in an industrial
area near a Railway and steel works.

Accommodation.

A two storey building in a fenced
area about 200 yds. square. We were con-
fined in rooms each 12' x 10', eight men
to a room. The rooms were badly bug
infested and we slept on mats.

Food.

The food consisted of vegetable tops,
barley, and Korean rice. It was inadequate
and we depended upon what we could steal.
Our total food consisted of a breakfast
cupful of whatever was issued three times
a day.

Clothing.

We received only one issue of clothing
which was British Army clothing from Hong
Kong. We received a coat, trousers, and
two shirts and in the summer we received one

pair of shorts and a shirt. Meanwhile the American Red Cross stores had an ample supply of clothing. Many of the Japanese were wearing Red Cross clothing and using Red Cross blankets.

Medical Supplies. Although there were ample American Red Cross supplies in the store, the medical Sergeant Osawa refused to supply any although he was repeatedly requested so to do by our Doctor. This applied also to surgical instruments and the Doctor was forced to get (from the blacksmith whatever instruments he could.

Hygiene. The latrines consisted of a row of pits and we had to bale out the excreta and put it on the gardens. We received one hot bath a week.

Work. We worked at the Railway yards unloading goods. We refused successfully to unload ammunition. Later I was put on to welding and cutting old iron. We worked on the Railway from 0730 to 1800 hrs. and the lucky ones received one day off in nineteen.

Pay. We were supposed to receive 20 sen a day for which we signed. We were payed nothing until after the war.

Canteen. Nil. We were able to purchase some tea.

Correspondence. I received 19 letters and wrote about ten.

General. The punishments consisted of lashings, standing at attention for long periods, and holding weights above the head. Such punishments were of daily occurrence. On one occasion a Japanese cook Miasaka, stole some rice. Takahashi blamed the P.O.W.'s for stealing it. He made the whole camp stand at attention from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. This was in November 1943 and the weather was very cold. Men who had overcoats were forced to take them off and any moving from the position of attention were punished by being beaten.

We were told we would have to stand there until the supposed thieves confessed. At last, two of the P.O.W.'s volunteered to confess and were taken to TAKAHASHI and they then let us go and return to our bunks. The men who volunteered were not punished.

Sergeant Gibson and Corporal Jones, two Englishmen, were tied to a post all night and were beaten by the guards. They were badly bruised for a fortnight. Able Seaman Bourke of the "Warspite" was kicked unconscious by the interpreter Mianoe for not understanding a speech.

I have seen Takahashi, Osawa and Ameri take part in bashings. Ameri was the worst of them all. Osawa consistently refused medical treatment to sick men. About 13 deaths occurred in three years, partly through his neglect and but for the fact that the P.O.W.'s were able to steal fruit and other food, many would have died from beri-beri.

I went to the camp at Dize in July 1944. At this camp we were badly treated by Sergeant Smees. This Japanese was killed in an air raid.

THIS IS THE SECOND AND LAST SHEET OF THE EVIDENCE OF A. B. JOHN WILLIAM VINEY, R.A.N.V.R. TAKEN AND SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA THIS 25th. DAY OF JANUARY, 1946.

/s/ J. W. Viney
.....
Deponent.

/s/ R. Philp
.....
Member,
Australian Board of
Inquiry into War Crimes.

TWM/AGW/2.A

A.B. J.W. VINEY, R.A.N.V.R.
25/1/46

EVIDENTIARY

No. 1

EX 1952

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8/6/52

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ジョン・ウィリアム・グザナー・R.A.N.V.R.

JOHN WILLIAM VINEY, R.A.N.V.R.

私ハノース・ウィリアムズタウン NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN
一街 RENNIE STREET 二番地ニ住ム所居ル。

私ハ汽船、南京丸乗込、砲手ヲアリ印度洋デ獨逸
ノ奇襲船「トール」THORニ捕ケラレタ。私ハソノ

船カラ獨逸、補給船「レーグンズブルグ」REGENSBURG
ニ移サレ一九四二年七月ニ横濱ニ連レテ來ラレタ。

私ハ一九四二年八月二十五日ニ川崎ノ俘虜收容所
ニ送ラレタ。

ソノ收容所ハ鐵道ト制鋼所附近ノ工業地帯
ニアツタ。

收容設備

塙ヲ繞ラシタ約二百ヤード四方ノ地域ニテルニ階建、
建物壹棟。我々ハ各十二呎、十呎ノ室若干

ニ一室三人宛監禁サレタ。是等ノ室ニハ南京虫
ガヒドク蔓ツテ来タ。我々ハ疊ノ上ニ寝タ。

食物

食物ハ野菜、薺、大麥、及朝鮮米デアツタ。

之等ハ不十分デアツタ、テ我々ハ盜ミ得ル食料ニ頼
ツタ。我々ノ全食料ハ日ニ三度何デモ出サレルモノ

朝食用大形碗一パイノモノデアツタ。

衣料

我々ハ香港カラ來タ英國陸軍用衣類唯壹回

Doc. 8/6/☆

ノ給與ヲ受ケラバカリタ。我々ハ、外套一着、ズボン
及ビシャツニ枚ヲ貰フタ、而シテ夏ニハ、パンツ一枚、及ビ
シャツ一枚ヲ貰フタ。其ノ間、幾ツカノ米國赤十字、
倉庫ニハ、十分ナル衣料補給品ガ貯ヘラレテ平タ。
日本人ノ多クハ、赤十字、衣類ヲ着用シ赤十字ノ毛
布ヲ使用シテ平タ。

醫藥品

倉庫ニハアメリカ赤十字供給品ガ十分ニアツタガ、衛
生軍醫大澤(音譯) / OSAWA / ハ我方ノ醫者カラ屢
次支給方ヲ要求サレタニモ拘ラズ一切給與スル事ヲ拒絶
シタ。コノ事ハ外科用醫藥器具ニモ同様デアツタ。醫者
ハ鍛冶屋カラドーナ器具デモ彼ガ手ニ入レルコトノ出來ルモノ
ヲ入手スルコトヲ餘儀ナクサレタ。

衛生

便所ハ溝、列デアツテ、排泄物ヲ汲ミ出シ、畑ニ
ソラ置カネバナラナカッタ。一週ニ度風呂ヲ貰フタ。

一般

處罰ハ殴打、長時間、氣ヲ附ケノ攻勢デ立ツテ平
ルコト、及頭上高ク重イ物ヲ支ヘテ平ルコトデアツタ。
コノ様ナ處罰ハ日常ノ事デアツタ。或ル時、日本人
料理人宮坂(音譯) / MIYASAKA / 此部令タイプ不鮮明
ガ少シ米ヲ盗ンダ、高橋(音譯) / TAKAHASHI / ハ俘虜
ガソレヲ盗ンダノダト小言ヲ言フタ。彼ハ全收容者ヲ午
後六時カラ午前一時迄氣ヲ附ケノ攻勢デ立タシタ。コレハ

No. 2

☆ 一九四三年十一月、事デ非常ニ寒イ時候デアッタ。外套ヲ着テキタ者ハ無理ニ又ガセラレモ氣ヲ附ケ、姿勢カラ少シデモ動イタ者ハ殴打ノ罰ヲ受ケタ。

f/16 Doc. 我々ハ空切盜容疑者達ガ自狀スルマデ其處ニ立ツテキル様言渡サレタ。遂ニ俘虜ノ中ノ一人ガ自狀スル様自發的ニ申出デ、ソノ二人ハ高橋(音譯) TAKAHASHI、トコロニ連レテ行カレ、次イデ彼等ハ我々ノ其場カラ、出デ小屋ニ歸ラシテ戻シタ。自發的ニ申出タ者ハ罰セラレナカッタ。

ギブソン軍曹 GIBSON 及 ジョージズ伍長 JONES、二人ノ來人ハ夜中柱ニ縛リ附ケラレデッタ。其ニ番兵達ニ毆ラレタ。彼等ハ二週間、間打撲傷デヒドク紫斑ヲ生シテキタ。グオーアスバイト WARSPITE、水兵ボーク BOURKE、通譯ミスノエ MISNOE、言禁ヲ解ラナイト言ツテ蹴ラレテ氣絶シタ。

高橋(音譯) TAKAHASHI、オサワ OSAWA 及 アメリ AMERI、ガ毆打ニ参加シテキルヲ私に見タ。アメリ AMERI、ガソノ中デ一番惡カッタ。オサワ OSAWA、ハ終始病人ニ醫藥ヲ拒ンタ。約十三人ノ死亡ガ三年ノ間ニアリ、一部分ハ彼ノ怠慢ノ爲デアッタ。而シテ俘虜ガ果實及他、食物ヲ盜ムコトが出来タトイフ事實ナカリセバ多數ノ者ハ脚氣デ死ンタデアラウ。

No.3 私ハ一九四四年七月ニデイセ DISE、收容所ニ行ッタ。コノ收容所デ我々ハヌメー軍曹 SMEE、カミロトイ取扱ヲ受ケタ。